

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 9, 2001

LB 75

inferior product which people are trying to palm off as being a valuable product, but it cannot make it on the marketplace because the public will not buy it, you ruin or ban the competition. And that's what's being done with this bill, annihilating the competition. Who is the one that will not benefit from this bill? The public. Senator Connealy and his band are saying that you've got to compel every retailer of gasoline to stock ethanol. Maybe what Senator Wehrbein should have done was got the Legislature to pass a bill that said every supermarket must sell 10 percent more milk than it sold last year, or it must at least purchase 10 percent more milk, whether it sells it or not, because what Senator Connealy is saying by this bill, compel these retailers to stock this ethanol, whether there is a market in that retailer's area or not, to make a statement and to help the stock and the income of these investors, create a false appearance of a market. But you really don't need a market, just let them know that you're going to drive out the competition in Nebraska so that the hustlers and the investors in ethanol can make money. That's what this bill is about, it is about investors, producers and purveyors of ethanol. It totally drops the public out of the equation. If people wanted ethanol, they would ask for it. They cannot make me put ethanol in my car, even if they drive regular off the market. As I've said before, fortunately I don't live that far from the Iowa border, and there are filling stations not too far across the bridge that I would have to cross. So I don't have to burn ethanol, but there are people who are not that close to a source of the gasoline they prefer to use. If there should be backlash on the part of the public, it will be aimed, in the first instance, at the retailer because people will not be able to find a service station where they can buy unleaded regular; they won't be able to buy it. Then the retailers will point out that it's that dumb Nebraska Legislature meddling in business again, manipulating the market, taking products off the market to remove the competition so the investors in ethanol can make a killing in Nebraska. And that will be the truth. That is the reasoning behind this bill. When others come before us with another giveaway bill for ethanol they need to consider the constraints of time, time, time. And I love to spend time with my colleagues in the Legislature. I have put some spies out to listen in on conversations, and there is going to be an attempt